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FLOOR DEBATE

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American Journal of Public Health, documents 617 slayings from 1991 through 1999. That number understates the actual toll, because many states do not have reliable methods for tracking such deaths, researchers said. Using data from more than 30 states, the CDC found that homicide ranked second, after auto accidents, among trauma deaths of pregnant women and new mothers. The study looked only at injury deaths, and drew no comparison to deaths from medical causes. Well, I won't go on and read the article further, but essentially what they're saying is that the number two cause of death of pregnant women is homicide, and that the rate of homicide against women who are pregnant is actually higher than the rate of homicide against women who are not pregnant. I find that extraordinary. I never, I never would have predicted that. I would have thought that women who are pregnant were regarded by our society and our culture as a class of people who deserve extra protection, extra deference, extra assistance. And yet, that's not what's happening in our society today.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FOLEY: Pregnant women are more susceptible to acts of violence than women who are not pregnant, and Nebraska certainly has seen its share of this. I think there's been four cases now, just since passage of our fetal homicide statute four years ago, there's already been four cases where that statute has been used successfully by prosecutors to prosecute someone for the killing of an unborn child. One was the case of William C. Floyd. I'm looking now at an article that was published in the World-Herald, October 14, 2005, just a couple of paragraphs. William C. Floyd, Jr. will spend the rest of his life in prison for fatally shooting a pregnant 20-year-old woman. Douglas County District Court Judge Thomas...I won't try to pronounce it, it's O-t-e-p-k-a,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Smith.